



2008 Election Season

Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors, here are some ideas designed to help you learn about elections and voting in Washington--and have some fun along the way.

Inform Yourself!

Watch ballot counting. Arrange for your troop to visit your county elections department during ballot processing.

See what they have to say. Invite an elected official such as a city council member or even a state representative to your troop meeting. Consider hosting a community meeting around a local topic that concerns you. Invite stakeholders in your community.

Vote online in the 2008 Mock Election, hosted by the Washington Office of the Secretary of State.

Compete! Make a set of "Know Your Elected Official" flashcards. Put the name of the incumbent on one side of the card and the office name on the other. Form teams and have a competition—losing team treats winners to ice cream.

Have a campaign poster competition. Work in pairs to make posters that support your favorite candidate.

Volunteer to work on a real campaign. Research the candidates in your community. When you find someone you admire, volunteer to help them get elected.

Decide on a local issue that is important to your troop. Then research which candidate's position you agree with and write a letter from your troop to the editor of your local paper stating the reasons why your troop would vote for that candidate, if you could vote. Follow up with a phone call to ask if they'll print the letter.

Get Mail-In Voter Registration forms from your local elections department, library, or other state office for everyone in your troop. Practice filling out the form like you would if you were old enough to vote. If you are old enough, that is, you'll be 18 years old by the next election, mail the form!

Take a video survey. Borrow a video camera and ask adults you know why voting is important. Tape their messages and then edit the responses into a video with music and special effects.

Watch the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2009.

Attend Girl Scout Day at the Office of the Secretary of State on January 23, 2009. Contact Lindsay Pryor at lprior@secstate.wa.gov by December 22, 2008 to register.

**GIRL SCOUT DAY
JANUARY 23, 2009**



The Office of the Secretary of State offers you these free resources while supplies last:

- County elections department contact information;
- Citizen Voting Rights brochures;
- Voter registration forms;
- Online voting in the 2008 Mock Election; and
- Girl Scout Day on January 23, 2009.

Anyone with questions about voting and elections in Washington should call their county elections department or the Voter Hotline at (800) 448-4881. To register for Girl Scout Day, contact Lindsay Pryor at lprior@secstate.wa.gov by December 22, 2008. Space is limited.